

KOORI NEWS

Autumn 2024



Contents

CEO Message.....	1
From The Board.....	2
In The Community.....	2
New Website.....	6

Meet a Member of Our Team.....	6
What's on at MDAS.....	8



From The CEO

• • •

This year seems to be flying by fast and it's hard to believe we are already nearly halfway through the year.

The team at MDAS and myself, have been working very hard to ensure we are continuing to deliver the services our Mob need, across our Mallee region, from Kerang to Mildura. Over the last couple of months, there have been many things happening, some big and some small. Some may already know, but my

time with MDAS, and as your CEO, has come to a close.

I want to thank you, the community, and colleagues, for all the support over my journey with MDAS. I also want to thank the board for the support I've been able to receive in announcing my departure. We have been able to work closely together to ensure a smooth transition for the next CEO.

Maintaining a solid foundation is our main focus to ensure the future success of MDAS, and I'm committed to supporting this process however I can. However, that doesn't mean the past couple months haven't been busy for myself.

I had the opportunity to attend Parliament House to address the issue of homelessness in the Mallee region, where we were able to advocate for the

Aboriginal Hostel model and present our proposal. It's crucial work, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent our organisation in such important discussions.

I also wanted to highlight that we were able to do some fantastic work we have done locally, having our own Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Uncle Ian Kirby appear on local radio to talk about our culture programs. Moments like these remind us of the importance of preserving and sharing our culture, especially with our young people.

MDAS has achieved a lot and also have been able to learn a lot in the past couple of months. I am confident that the future of MDAS is and will be bright for our mob.

FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Directors is grateful to Darlene Thomas for nine years of heartfelt work at MDAS, including the past 22 months of leadership as CEO and is aware of the lovely sentiments shared by staff and community alike on her last day at the organisation. We wish her all the best in whatever path she chooses.

An All Members' meeting is scheduled for Thursday 27th June, members will be welcome to attend at each of the three locations across Mallee, to hear from the Board and receive an update on our new CEO and Company Secretary, as recruitment enters final stage.

Please submit any questions for the Board of Directors to companysecretary@mdas.org.au by close of business **Friday 21st June**, so we can provide a considered response and get to as many questions as possible.

MDAS Board of Directors attended the apology by Commissioner of Victoria Police last Friday and have committed to attending all Reconciliation and NAIDOC celebrations over the next couple of weeks. Come up and have a yarn if you see us around – your Board of Directors is here to work for all our community.

IN THE COMMUNITY

...



SWAN HILL YOUTH GROUP

Our Swan Hill youth group has been busy so far this year. They have been out and about in the community, familiarising themselves with their local land, water, and overall environment. Our kids, attended a workshop at Bunnings to see a reptile display, took part in the Water Detectives Program held by North Central CMA, and much more. They have been able to develop their skills and confidence, all while having a blast doing so.

SWAN HILL SORRY DAY & RECONCILIATION DAY

In May, our Swan Hill team hosted their National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Day events. Cultural dancers, guest speakers, fun activities, food, and much more were on offer. It was great to see many of our deadly mob come together for the important and special days, everyone was able to connect and come together as one mob.



UNCLE IAN RADIO INTERVIEW

Our Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer, Uncle Ian Kirby, appeared recently on ABC Mildura Swan Hill radio to talk about the importance of our cultural programs, including our Didgeridoo lessons for the young Aboriginal males in our community. Well done to Uncle Ian on his appearance and we hope to hear those Didgeridoo skills come through the radio again soon.



MILDURA SORRY DAY

We recently hosted our National Sorry Day events in Mildura with great success. On Thursday, everyone came together to watch a few movies and relax. Then, on Friday, you mob joined us for a feed and a yarn. We want to thank everyone for making the events a deadly couple of days, giving everyone a voice to talk about what the day meant. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did hosting it.



MILDURA

RECONCILIATION DAY

To mark National Reconciliation Day in Mildura, our Aboriginal Culture and Community Engagement team put together their event at the Powerhouse Precinct, near Jaycee Park. Many other local organisations attended to make the day memorable and a great start to coming together for an important yarn for all community.



HARMONY DAY

On March 21st, we marked Harmony Day with a morning tea and fun activities. Everyone gave their best effort to win at bingo. It was great to see so many people dressed in orange, embracing the spirit of living in harmony and respecting everyone who calls Australia home.



EASTER CELEBRATION

It was wonderful to see our smallest community members getting into the spirit at our Easter Event at Nowingi Place. There were smiles all around, and it was fantastic to see so many of our families there, joining in on the festivities.



NEW WEBSITE

After much hard work and hours, we are proud to have launched our new MDAS website. Make sure to check out our new look and explore the new areas that include a 'Photo & Video Gallery'. These showcase our recent events, then be sure to have a look at our 'Event Calendar' to see our next upcoming deadly event.



MEET A MEMBER OF OUR MILDURA TEAM



KIRSTY HAMPTON

Health Promotions Coordinator

Kirsty has a passion for educating our Aboriginal youth and all age groups on all the deadly health matters. Kirsty Hampton is our Health Promotions Coordinator and has a large part in organising all the wicked health events you may see MDAS host. One of Kirsty's more recent events was bringing attention to Bowel & Cervical screening and the importance of it. If you attend one of our events, feel free to say hello to Kirsty as she is always around for a yarn.

MEET A MEMBER OF OUR SWAN HILL TEAM



KENITA-LEE MCCARTNEY

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer

Kenita is one of our Swan Hill superstars in the Aboriginal Culture and Community Engagement space. Kenita, along with her team in Swan Hill, helps aid many of our successful events. Some recent ones include our Swan Hill Sorry Day and Reconciliation Day events. Kenita has a strong passion for keeping culture alive and is also a passionate artist. We look forward to seeing what you create or come up with next.

GET VAXXED STAY DEADLY

FLU SEASON IS HERE

Call our Health Clinic to make an appointment for a flu, COVID-19 or JEV vaccination to protect you and your Mob.

Mildura: 5018 4100 • Swan Hill: 5032 8600 • Kerang: 5412 6004

MDAS Community Meals

Did you know we offer free breakfast & fruit all day and one free meal from the Cafe to support our community?

Please only take your share so we have enough for everyone.

Free breakfast bar

One free meal

1x Hot Meal or Sandwich/Roll + 1x Cold Drink + 1x Hot Drink

If you need extra support please have a yarn to our reception staff

Don't Forget To Book Your

715 HEALTH CHECK

AND RECIEVE YOUR FREE T-SHIRT!

Call MDAS To Arrange An Appointment:

Mildura: (03) 5018 4100 | Swan Hill: (03) 5032 8600
Kerang: (03) 5412 6004

"Healthy Mob - A Journey to Healing"
By Simone Spencer
Represents our Aboriginal people standing together throughout their health & wellbeing journey - healing together & standing strong - looking towards the horizon with determination & hope for better health in the future.

WHAT'S ON AT MDAS

...



MILDURA RIVERFRONT MARATHON FESTIVAL

REGISTER NOW www.mildurariverfrontmarathon.com.au

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024

STARTS 8AM

MILDURA RIVERFRONT MARATHON

POWERHOUSE PRECINCT, HUGH KING DRIVE

DISTANCE OPTIONS: 42.2/21.1/10/5km
Plus 2km MDAS Kids Run

australian almonds

MDAS

Mildura Rural City Council



KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD

NAIDOC BALL 2024

Nominations Now Open

Nomination forms are available at Reception
For more information contact:

Mildura
120 Madden Ave, Mildura
(03) 5018 4100

MDAS



Have something you want us to feature?

Contact us at:
media@mdas.org.au

"Self-determined, healthy, robust and culturally strong Aboriginal communities across the Mallee region."